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EXAMINER
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EHICHIOYA, FRED I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

16

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/759,215

Applicant(s)

KRAUSE, THOMAS W.

Examiner

Fred I. Ehichioya

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 14 - 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 8-11, 13, 17 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Claims 1 – 22 are pending in this office action.
2. Applicant amends claims 1 – 4, and 6 - 22.
3. Applicant argues, "Mindrum does not teach the presentation of age-event information" (Page 9, Para 4).

Regarding the argument, examiner disagrees with the applicants. Reed (USPN 6,546,399) discloses the presentation of age-event information (see column 18, lines 1 – 17; "1492 – Christopher Columbus discovers the New World").

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 - 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Objections***

5. Claims 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 18, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,065,002 issued to James Brian Knotts (hereinafter Knotts) in view of USPN 6,546,399 issued to Michael Reed (hereinafter "Reed").

Regarding claim 1, Knotts teaches a computer-implemented method for providing a user with age-event information comprising:

- a) receiving an input signal (see column 5, lines 28 – 35);
- b) determining age information from said input signal (see column 6, lines 18 – 42).

Knotts does not explicitly teach

- c) providing an output signal comprising age-event information corresponding to said age information;

wherein said age information comprises information related to the age of a first individual and said age-event information comprises information regarding an event that occurred in the life of a second individual when said second individual was at an age bearing a pre-defined mathematical relationship to the age of said first individual.

Reed teaches c) providing an output signal comprising age-event information corresponding to said age information (see column 17, line 66 – column 18, line 1);

wherein said age information comprises information related to the age of a first individual and said age-event information comprises information regarding an event that occurred in the life of a second individual when said second individual was at an age

bearing a pre-defined mathematical relationship to the age of said first individual (see column 18, lines 1 – 17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Knotts with the teaching of Reed wherein Christopher Columbus is the second individual that discovers New World at the age of the first individual. The motivation is that the combination of Knotts and Reed is advantageous wherein Knotts calculates the age that has a relationship of both first and second individual at a point in time using age function.

Regarding claim 2, Knotts teaches the input signal comprises a date (column 6, lines 19 – 31).

Knotts does not explicitly teach the output signal comprises a celebrity ageliner, wherein said celebrity ageliner names a celebrity and describes a historical event in the life of an individual that occurred when said individual was the age of said celebrity on said date.

Reed teaches the output signal comprises a celebrity ageliner, wherein said celebrity ageliner names a celebrity and describes a historical event in the life of an individual that occurred when said individual was the age of said celebrity on said date (column 17, lines 33 – 67 and column 18, lines 1 - 17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Knotts with the teaching of Reed wherein the output signal displays Christopher Columbus as the celebrity. The motivation is that

this combination of Knotts and Reed is advantageous wherein Knotts derives the ages of either first or second individual at a point in time using age function.

Regarding claim 3, Knotts teaches the input signal comprises age information relating to a target individual, and the output signal comprises age-event information customized for said first individual, and the output signal includes a reference to said first individual (see Fig.5 and column 6, lines 18 - 23).

Regarding claim 5, Knotts teaches the input signal comprises a birthdate (see column 6, lines 30 – 31).

Regarding claim 6, Knotts teaches said input signal represent an age (see column 6, lines 18 - 23).

Regarding claim 7, Reed teaches the output signal is obtained by using said age information to select corresponding age-event information from database (see column 18, lines 1 - 10).

Regarding claims 14 and 18, Knotts teaches a computer system for providing age-event information, comprising:

computer processor means for processing data (column 5, lines 36 - 44);

storage means for storing data on a storage medium (see column 2, lines 33 - 63);

means for receiving input (see column 5, lines 28 - 35);

means for determining age information from said input (see column 6, lines 18 - 42); and

means, responsive to said age-determining means, for outputting age-event information to a user (see column 3, lines 16 - 20);

Knotts does not explicitly teach wherein said age information comprises information related to the age of a first individual and said age-event information comprises information regarding an event that occurred in the life of a second individual when said second individual was at an age bearing a pre-defined mathematical relationship to the age of said first individual.

Reed teaches wherein said age information comprises information related to the age of a first individual and said age-event information comprises information regarding an event that occurred in the life of a second individual when said second individual was at an age bearing a pre-defined mathematical relationship to the age of said first individual (see column 18, lines 1 - 17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Knotts with the teaching of Reed wherein Christopher Columbus is the second individual that discovers New World at the age of the first individual. The motivation is that the combination of Knotts and Reed is

advantageous wherein Knotts calculates the age that has a relationship of both first and second individual at a point in time using age function.

Regarding claim 15, Reed teaches means for generating a celebrity ageliner, wherein said celebrity ageliner names a celebrity and describes a historical event in the life of an individual that occurred when said individual was the age of said celebrity (see column 17, line 33 through column 18, line 10).

Regarding claim 21, Knotts teaches the computer-implemented method for providing a user with age-event information of claim 1, wherein the age information received in step a) is related to the age of a first individual, and said method further comprises:

receiving an input signal comprising the name of a second individual (see column 5, lines 28 – 35);

Knotts does not explicitly teach wherein said age information comprises information related to the age of a first individual and said age-event information comprises information regarding an event that occurred in the life of a second individual when said second individual was at an age bearing a pre-defined mathematical relationship to the age of said first individual.

Reed teaches wherein said age information comprises information related to the age of a first individual and said age-event information comprises information regarding an event that occurred in the life of a second individual when said second individual was



at an age bearing a pre-defined mathematical relationship to the age of said first individual (see column 18, lines 1 – 17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Knotts with the teaching of Reed wherein Christopher Columbus is the second individual that discovers New World at the age of the first individual. The motivation is that the combination of Knotts and Reed is advantageous wherein Knotts calculates the age that has a relationship of both first and second individual at a point in time using age function.

Regarding claim 22, Reed teaches computer implemented method for providing a user with age-event information of claim 21, wherein said output signal further comprises at least one date in the life of said first individual, wherein the age of said first individual on said data is the same as the age of said second individual at the time of said event (see column 17, line 66 – column 18, line 1 - 17).

7. Claims 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knotts in view of Reed and further in view of USPN 5,983,200 issued to Benjamin Slotznick (hereinafter "Slotznick").

Regarding claims 16 and 19, Reed discloses age-event information (see column 18, lines 1 – 17).

Knotts or Reed does not explicitly disclose the step of generating a customized greeting from the user to a first individual, said greetings comprising age-event information.

Slotznick teaches the step of generating a customized greeting from the user to a first individual (see column 1, lines 38 - 42).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Slotznick with the teaching of Knotts and Reed wherein personalizing the greeting card is targeted at a particular individual. The motivation is that this system enables personalizing this card reflects the age-event information and accomplishments of that particular individual.

### ***Conclusion***

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of


the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred I. Ehichioya whose telephone number is 703-305-8039. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Fred I. Ehichioya  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2172  
April 4, 2004

  
SHAHID ALAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER